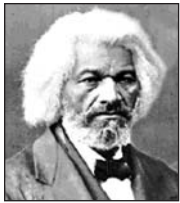


“I would unite with anybody to do right
and with nobody to do wrong.”

A sepia-toned portrait of Frederick Douglass, an older man with a full white beard and hair, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

ABOLITIONIST, AUTHOR, PUBLISHER, STATESMAN,
AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE, 1818 - 1895



CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS: AMERICAN HERO

- 1818** Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey born on February 14th on a farm on Tuckahoe Creek, Talbot County Maryland.

1824 Sent to live on Lloyd plantation, Wye River, Maryland in the house of his master Aaron Anthony.

1825 Saw his mother, Harriet Bailey, for the last time; she died in early 1826.

1826 Shortly before the death of Aaron Anthony, he was sent to Baltimore to live with Anthony’s relatives Hugh and Sophia Auld.

1826-1827 Frederick sent back to the Eastern Shore of Maryland as part of the property to be divided among Anthony’s heirs; awarded to Thomas Auld and returned to Baltimore after one month.

1827 Sophia Auld reprimanded for teaching Frederick to read.

1831 Underwent a religious conversion and discovered the book **The Columbian Orator**.

1832 Sister Sarah was sold away to Mississippi, one of fifteen close relatives “sold south” during Frederick’s childhood.

1833 Sent back to St. Michaels, Eastern Shore, to live with his owner, Thomas Auld.

1834 Hired out to Edward Covey and suffered many beatings. He had a decisive fight with Covey in August.

1835 Hired out to William Freeland as a field hand; conducted a Sabbath school among fellow slaves.

1836 Escape plot failed, jailed in Easton, Maryland; sent back to Baltimore by Auld.

1836-1838 Worked as a caulker in Baltimore shipyards; beaten by white apprentices; met Anna Murray.

1838 Escaped September 3 from slavery by train and boat: married Anna in New York City on September 15; they settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where Frederick chose a new name, Douglass.

1838-1839 Worked as day laborer and caulker in New Bedford.

1839 Spoke at meeting of New Bedford blacks against African colonization; became a licensed preacher in African Methodist Episcopal Zion church; daughter Rosetta born June 24.

1840 Son Lewis born October 9; William Lloyd Garrison discovered Douglass as a speaker at an antislavery meeting.

1841 Delivered three speeches at Massachusetts antislavery convention on Nantucket Island; hired as a lecturer by Garrison.
- 1841-1843** Traveled extensively in New England, New York, and across the North as an abolitionist speaker, drawing huge crowds to his orations; badly beaten and suffered a broken hand in Pendleton, Indiana, in September 1843; Son Frederick born March 3, 1842.

1844-1845 Wrote the **Narrative of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave**, at home in Lynn, Massachusetts; son Charles born October 21, 1844.

1845 **Narrative** published in Boston, revealing his full identity; toured Ireland for three months, spoke to large audiences; Dublin edition of the **Narrative** published.

1846 Toured Scotland and England in a much-celebrated lecture campaign entitled “Send Back the Money;” his freedom was purchased for £150 (\$711) by British antislavery friends; his manumission papers were filed in Baltimore making Douglass a free man.

1847 Returned to United States; moved to Rochester, New York, and founded his own newspaper, the **North Star**; first issue published December 3.

1848 First met John Brown in Springfield, Massachusetts, in February; attended and spoke at first Women’s Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, New York, in July, beginning a long association with the women’s-rights movement. Julia Griffiths, an Englishwoman Douglass met in 1845, moved to America, and, while living in the Douglass home in Rochester, served as editorial assistant, fundraiser, and valued friend; Douglass became the object of resentment and rumor-mongering among some people.

1849 Daughter Annie was born March 22.

1850 Broke with Garrison and friends over issues of political action; asserted his professional independence, and began close association with upstate New York abolitionist Gerrit Smith.

1851 Changed name of newspaper to **Frederick Douglass’ Paper**.

1851-1855 Became increasingly involved in antislavery politics through the Liberty and Free-Soil parties; continued abolitionist lecturing across the North.

1852 Delivered famous “Fourth of July” speech in Rochester – one of the greatest American Literary works about the meaning of slavery and freedom in the Republic.

1854-1856 Increasingly supported the right of slaves and their defenders to offer violent resistance against slave holders and slave catchers.

1855 Published **My Bondage and My Freedom**, his second and more thorough autobiography.
- 1856** Supported the Republican candidate, John C. Frémont, for President, beginning an ambivalent but increasingly positive association with the new antislavery party.

1857 Condemned and called for political resistance to the Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision.

1858 John Brown stayed for a month at Douglass’s home in Rochester while making plans for his raid into Virginia and incitement of a slave revolt; Douglass supported Brown’s vague plans but counseled against violence.

1859 Met Brown near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in August; refused to join the ill-fated Harpers Ferry raid; he was sought by the United States Marshals as an accomplice; in October fled the country in the wake of Brown’s death; sailed to England via Canada, staying six months.

1860 Learning of the death of his eleven-year-old daughter Annie, he returned to America; supported and campaigned on behalf of Abraham Lincoln during presidential election.

1861-1862 Recommended the emancipation of the slaves; encouraged the enlistment of black troops in the Union army; rejoiced when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in September – effective January 1, 1863.

1863 Traveled across the North recruiting men for the black regiment, the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts; sons Lewis and Charles were the first recruits. Met with President Lincoln and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in Washington, D.C.; ceased publishing newspaper – then called **Douglass’s Monthly** – after sixteen years.

1864 Supported Lincoln’s reelection; called to White House in August to advise the President on the campaign and the war.

1865-1866 Supported the radical Republican Reconstruction plans; member of black delegation that met with President Andrew Jackson to criticize his policies; strongly advocated black suffrage.

1868 Campaigned for Ulysses S. Grant for President.

1868-1869 Rejoiced in the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment, despite its limitations; broke with women’s-rights movement over its opposition to the amendment’s silence on women’s suffrage.

1870 Named to run for Vice President by the Equal Rights Party with Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for President of the U.S.; supported Grant’s re-election instead.

1871 Appointed by Grant as assistant secretary of commission to Santo Domingo supporting Grant’s plans to annex the Caribbean island.
- 1872** Rochester home destroyed by fire, arson suspected; many important papers lost; family moved to 318 A Street, NE in Washington, D.C.

1874-1876 Named president of the Freedmen’s Bank in Washington, D.C. until it went out of business.

1877 Became stalwart Republican Party functionary; appointed United States Marshal for the District of Columbia by President Rutherford Hayes on March 18, 1877; returned to St. Michaels, Maryland after forty-one years; met with former owner Thomas Auld on Auld’s deathbed.

1878 Moved to Cedar Hill; a fifteen-acre estate in Anacostia, D.C. in September; returned to Eastern Shore of Maryland and located his grandmother’s cabin.

1881 Appointed the District of Columbia’s Recorder of Deeds by President James Garfield; third autobiography, **The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass**, published.

1882 Anna, wife of forty-four years, died in August after a long illness.

1884 In January married Helen Pitts, his white former secretary and Mount Holyoke Seminary graduate; the marriage caused controversy in family and within the community generally.

1885-1887 Toured England, France, Italy, Egypt and Greece with Helen.

1889 Appointed Minister and Consul General to Haiti by President Benjamin Harrison; retained post until July 1891; returned to Cedar Hill in Washington, D.C.

1892 Published final updated version of autobiography, **The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass**.

1892-1893 Served as Commissioner for the Republic of Haiti pavilion at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago; collaborated with anti-lynching activist and journalist Ida B. Wells to issue pamphlet “The Reason Why the Colored American is not in the World’s Columbian Exposition.”

1894 Delivered last major speech, “The Lessons of the Hour,” a bitter analysis and denunciation of lynching in America, at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

1895 Died suddenly at Cedar Hill on February 20, 1895 having returned from attending a women’s rights rally that morning in Washington, D.C.; funeral services were held at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church on February 25 in Washington, D.C.; burial took place in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York on February 26.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS REGULARLY COLLABORATE IN CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS
INCLUDING THE REMEMBRANCE OF HIS BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 14, 2005 AT FORD’S THEATRE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

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